

## **Denali National Park and Preserve Commercial Use Authorization Activity-Specific Stipulations**

### **Attachment G 2016 GUIDED MOUNTAINEERING**

#### **1. Annual Reports and Documentation**

The CUA holder will submit the following reports and documentation:

- a) Schedule of climbs and proposed rate schedule. Due prior to advertisement.
- b) Employee Roster. Due 30 days prior to operations.
- c) Operating Plan. Due as part of CUA application.

Note: These documents are in addition to other documentation requirements of the CUA program found elsewhere, such as application documents, proof of insurance, Activity Reports and Gross Receipts.

#### **Before the Trip**

##### **1. Employee Briefings and Orientations**

The CUA holder will provide employee orientation and training on park regulations, requirements, and policies. The CUA holder will be responsible for all actions of their employees while conducting business under the CUA. Upon NPS request, the CUA holder will provide written documentation of training and orientation.

##### **2. Client Screening Process and Skill Review**

The CUA holder will evaluate the skill level and experience of prospective clients to ensure that they are appropriate based on their intended objective or program. This screening and evaluation will take place prior to accepting their registration and deposit. Clients' medical condition and history of illness should be evaluated as part of the screening process. Upon request, the CUA holder will provide the NPS with a written description of their screening process and experience requirements by program.

##### **3. Client Registration Materials, Orientation, and Safety Briefing**

In the pre-trip process the client should receive guidance in appropriate equipment selection and how to adequately prepare for their program. Registration materials should include but not be limited to the following.

- a) Equipment selection and preparation
- b) Physical preparation and training
- c) Course curriculum or climbing objective
- d) Travel and general program logistics
- e) Potential hazards including cold injuries, altitude sickness, weather, terrain, objective hazards, and expedition health and hygiene.
- f) Briefing on NPS policies and protocols

##### **4. Food Packing and Recycling**

The CUA holder will re-package food prior to starting the expedition to minimize waste in the mountains. The CUA holder will recycle all paper, cardboard, metal and plastics generated by the trips conducted under the CUA.

## **5. Approved Air Taxis**

All trips that will use an aircraft for transportation into and out of the park will hire one of the air taxi's that currently holds a concession for such activities with Denali National Park. Please consult the Talkeetna Ranger station for a current list of permitted air taxi's if you are not familiar with approved vendors.

## **6. Registration with the National Park Service**

- a) Registration requirements. All CUA trips are required to register at the Talkeetna Ranger Station in person and present a copy of their CUA permit. At this time clients will also be required to pay the \$10 per person park entrance fee. Annual Interagency and park specific passes are accepted to cover the entrance fee as per the rules under which the pass was issued.
- b) Clean Mountain Cans (CMC) with biodegradable bags. During the check-in process, CMC's will be available for checkout. For groups that choose to use CMC's and biodegradable bags provided by the NPS there will be a \$50.00 per person Cost Recovery Fee assed to the holder of the CUA for each member of the party.
- c) CUA holders may pre-purchase entrance fee tickets to be sold to their clients. Refunds must be provided to clients in the event the trip is cancelled. The use of pre-paid entrance fee tickets does not negate the in person check in requirement (see C above). Please contact Missy Smothers at 907-733-9119 or [missy\\_smothers@nps.gov](mailto:missy_smothers@nps.gov) for more information on this option.

## **During The Trip**

### **1. Visitor Safety**

The CUA holder will conduct all activities with safety as their highest priority. Operations must be conducted with regard to minimizing impacts on other park visitors.

### **2. Leave No Trace Requirements and NPS Waste Management Policies**

Guides are responsible for ensuring that all members of the trip follow LNT for Mountaineering guidelines and adhere to all regulations and policies for waste management and sanitation, backcountry travel, and camping. Operations must be conducted with regard to minimizing the impact on other visitors.

### **3. Sanitation and Human Waste**

All solid human waste from participants of activities authorized under this CUA will be managed in accordance with current NPS Regulations:

- Solid human waste must be collected in a personal receptacle when within one half mile of glacial landing sites used by aircraft.
- On technical climbing routes within the park and preserve, solid human waste must be tossed or shoveled away from the route.
- In all other glaciated areas of the park covered by snow and ice, solid human waste must be bagged in biodegradable bags and carried out in a personal receptacle or deposited in a deep crevasse.
- Personal receptacles containing solid human waste must be removed from the backcountry.

#### **4. Trash removal**

The CUA holder is responsible for removing and properly disposing of all of their trash from the park at the conclusion of each trip.

#### **5. Caching Food and Gear**

- a) Bury caches in at least a 2 meter deep hole with at least 1 meter of snow on top
- b) Mark the cache with the expedition permit number, retrieval date, and lead guides name on a two-meter wand. Use at least one wand.
- c) All caches are to be removed at the conclusion of each trip and may not be left for subsequent trips.
- d) Improperly marked or abandoned caches are subject to citation and removal.

#### **6. Group Size**

- a) The total group size for trips conducted under the CUA will not exceed 12 persons.

#### **7. Climber-to-Guide Ratios**

- a) Climber-to-guide ratios will be appropriate for the nature of the terrain and based on the course and climbing objectives. Climber to guide ratios will not exceed four climbers to one guide.
- b) Solo glacier travel is not permitted for either guides or clients
- c) A client shall never be left unattended.

#### **8. Communication**

- a) Guides will carry a communication device capable of establishing two-way communication both with the holder of the CUA and the NPS for the duration of the trip. In most areas of the Alaska Range, satellite phones are the only reasonable option for two-way communication. FRS radios are highly recommended to maintain communication between teams should a larger group choose to function as two separate teams

#### **9. Roped Climbing and Fall Protection**

- a) Guides and Clients shall utilize roped travel and fall protection when the consequences of a fall could result in injury or death. Guides and Clients shall travel roped when traveling to and from objectives in glaciated terrain.

#### **10. Un-roped Skiing**

- a) Un-roped skiing will be allowed based on the following provisions;
  - I. On a dry glacier where traveling un-roped is deemed to be safer than traveling roped.
  - II. For downhill travel in terrain where a fall is unlikely to result in serious injury or death after the lead guide has:
    - i. performed and a risk assessment identifying hazards including but not limited to avalanche, seracs, crevasses, rock fall, and snow conditions,
    - ii. identified travel boundaries and regrouping locations

- iii. assessed snowpack stability and has determined that the snowpack is stable (avalanche unlikely),
- iv. communicated these assessments and plans to the rest of the team as part of a safety and travel briefing prior to skiing un-roped.

## **11. Search and Rescue Guidelines**

- a) In certain instances, guides and team members may become involved with search and rescue operations involving other teams and/or the NPS. Before engaging in search and rescue events that do not directly involve their team, guides must ensure the safety and well-being of their clients.
- b) Guides will not be paid for search and rescue operations initiated by themselves or others; they may only be compensated when work is performed at the direct request of the National Park Service and carried out under NPS direction. The National Park Service will make an acknowledgement that the guide will be compensated at the time of a request for assistance. Guides will be paid on the same scale used for emergency firefighters, otherwise known as the AD scale. All the paperwork required for payment will be completed in a timely fashion or payment will be considered to be surrendered.

## **11. Emergency Response and Rescue Skills**

All guides will have training in self-rescue and evacuation skills. Guides will be able to coordinate self and team rescues including but not limited to crevasse extrication, raising and lowering operations, evacuation of ill and injured climbers, accident site management, triage skills, basic life support as per WFR protocols, and operating in and around aircraft.

- a) At all times on the trip teams will carry equipment necessary to preserve life and limb in the event of an emergency.
- b) All guides will be familiar with NPS search and rescue procedures, radio procedures, knowledge of aircraft landing protocols, and knowledge of landing sites.
- c) Incidents involving personal injury to clients or guides must be reported to the NPS within 24 hours following completion of the climb.
- d) Any accident involving a fatality or serious injury must be reported to the NPS immediately and by the most expeditious means available.
- e) If an emergency fixed wing aircraft pickup is requested from an air taxi pilot, either the guide or the pilot should first attempt to contact the NPS to inform us of the emergency.
- f) Instances in which a client or guide becomes separated from the rest of the group and cannot be located should be reported to the NPS immediately.

## **12. Accidents and Injuries**

The CUA operator is responsible for notifying the Park of any incident that results in an injury requiring treatment. Please reference NPS emergency notifications protocol (attached to CUA) for contact numbers and procedures. The CUA holder and/or employee involved in the incident may be required to provide statement and/or reports related to NPS investigation and documentation procedures.

## **13. Complaints**

The CUA holder will send complaints and/or negative evaluations regarding the CUA holder operations to the NPS concessions management specialist in charge of CUA administration. The NPS will require a written response in a timely manner including any proposed remedies or administrative actions.

### **After the Trip**

#### **1. Check-Out Requirements**

All trips will check out in person at the Talkeetna Ranger Station within 24 hours of leaving the Alaska Range. Guide(s) will return CMCs and provide trip details as well as route and sanitation conditions. While encouraged to do so, clients are not required to attend check out unless they were involved in an incident that requires reporting to the NPS by the CUA holder.

**Failure to comply with the requirements outlined above may result in the revocation of the CUA and may impact the opportunity to operate commercially in Alaska units of the NPS in the future.**